

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

## **Peace with Jesus**

(Matthew 10:34-42)

What's the first thing you think of that Jesus came to bring?

**Luke 2:14**, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

- **Peace** = Mutually assured absolute relational safety & security

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**Matthew 10:34**, "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword."

- Probably not the most preached on verse of scripture
- Sword means what we think – a weapon of war
- How are those reconciled?

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**Luke 2:14** is more accurately translated, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth **peace to those on whom his favor rests.**"

- While His peace is given **toward** everyone...
- **Not everyone agrees** to live in peace with Him

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Universal peace will only come **when the Prince of Peace returns** bodily to rule & reign directly over all of creation, and every person alive in Him forever.

- His authority over **those who rejected Him...**
- Will consign them to themselves, and themselves only, for eternity
- They will be inescapably aware forever that **they condemned themselves**

There are only **two eternal destinies**:

- **Perfect Peace**; inviolable oneness with Christ & all who are His (**John 17:20-23**)
- **Perfect powerless aloneness**, in absolute isolation & darkness
- They will have wielded the sword that cut themselves off

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**Matthew 10:35-36**, "For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'" (**Micah 7:6**)

- This is not the purpose He came to accomplish
- It is the inescapable consequence of offering **peace through surrender to God...**
- In the midst of **a self-centered world**

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**Matthew 12:30 & 12:50**

- There is no neutral ground, & His family are **those who live according to God's Word**
- His peace with each other is like being married or pregnant...
- **You either are, or you're not.** There is no partial or maybe

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**Matthew 10:37**, "He who loves father or mother **more than Me** is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter **more than Me is not worthy of Me.**"

- Yes, love your parents. But at a very distinct second to Him.

- It's why Christians marrying non-Christians is so risky
- If both don't love Christ supremely, there will be an absence of oneness
- They won't have oneness to get back to when they are fractured

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**"Is not worthy of Me."**

- Everything He has **taught & demonstrated since 5:3** comes down to this
- He is sending them & us out to **represent Him...**
- And concludes our commissioning **with this charge**

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 Have you thought about **being worthy of Him?**

- Are we worthy of representing Him **if He is second to anyone or anything?**
- We can't invite anyone to join us in anything **more than we have embraced**

**Matthew 22:37**, Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

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**Matthew 10:38**, "And he who does not **take his cross and follow after Me** is **not worthy of Me.**"

- Complete abandonment of self-direction & benefit
- While entrusting our life to Christ completely
- As He demonstrated, total surrender & submission to the Father
- **John 5:19 & Mark 14:36** (Not what I will...)

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**We don't know** what the actual transaction may be

- But we're not measuring it. **It's all or nothing**
- Do we make that **complete commitment** of ourselves **to Him?**

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**Philippians 2:5-8**, Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as

a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

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**They knew what the Roman cross was**

- But they hadn't seen Him on one yet
- When He made it plain, Peter said, "Not on my watch!"
- For that, Jesus called him Satan! (**Matt. 16:23**)

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**How many Christians are adversaries of Christ...**

- By advocating a **partial, conditional** relationship with Him?
- Primarily **for our own benefit**
- Rather than **total abandonment to Him** because of all He has done for us

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**Matthew 10:39**, "He who finds **his life** will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."

- Those whose life is first **about themselves...**
- **The world's highest quest**
- Pursue your dreams, make them come true...
- And **live in the abundance you've earned**

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**"He who finds his life will lose it."**

- There is no eternal life in & of ourselves.
- So, living for ourselves is a losing game
- **Mark 8:36**, "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"

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**"And he who loses his life for My sake will find it."**

- Who receives **My life** in exchange for their own;
- Who willingly **discards** their life of **personal achievements & benefit**
- To receive & **represent Christ** instead...
- With the **gifts & calling we were born for**

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**Philippians 3:7-9**, But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed **I also count all things loss** for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, **and count them as**

*rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith*

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“And he who loses his life for My sake **will find it.**”

- Will find **Eternal Life with God, in Christ Jesus!**
- And, with those who also join Him in love.
- Will find **the life God made us for...**
- The life Christ willingly sacrificed in our behalf (**death died!**)
- The life Peter says is **free of corruption & cannot fade away...**
- Reserved for us in heaven.

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**I Peter 1:3-5**, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you**, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

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**Matthew 6:19-21**, “Do not lay up **for yourselves** treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up **for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**”

- **Invest your life** in an Eternal return...
- That can never be exhausted or diminished

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**Matthew 10:40-41**, “He who **receives you receives Me**, and he who receives Me **receives Him who sent Me**. He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall **receive a righteous man’s reward.**”

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“He who **receives you receives Me**”

- Our calling is to **represent & offer** who Christ Jesus is!
- **Acts 1:8**, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you shall be My witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
- **I John 4:17**, Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

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When you **receive Christ, represent & offer Him...**

- He makes Himself **available through you!**
- Invest yourself in Christ Jesus
- And **multiply His return** by giving Him to all who will receive Him

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**Invest Him** in people who receive Him in you

- We then fulfill His will & increase the reward He deserves
- **John 17:20-23**
- It’s **His purpose**, and His purpose **for us**

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**Whoever receives Christ’s representatives joins in their reward**

- So as we represent Him...
- We increase **His reward** in those who receive
- And **their reward in Him**

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**Matthew 10:42**, “And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”

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**Matthew 25:34-40**, Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘**Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you** from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to

Me.' **"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'**

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**Matthew 11:1**, Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities.

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**John 13:15**, "I have given you an example, that **you should do as I have done to you.**"